



Special Court for Sierra Leone Outreach and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Long Sentences for Convicted RUF Leaders

Three former leaders of Sierra Leone's rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have received lengthy prison sentences for atrocities committed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil war.



Justice Pierre Boutet reads out the judgment in Court.

In a sentencing judgment read out by Presiding Judge Pierre Boutet of Canada, former RUF Interim Leader Issa Hassan Sesay received a sentence of 52 years, while senior RUF commander Morris Kallon will serve a 40 year sentence. Augustine Gbao, also a senior RUF commander, will serve 25 years.

Sesay and Kallon were convicted in February on 16 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Gbao was convicted on 14 counts.

The Trial Chamber took note of several mitigating factors advanced by the Defence, but said that in view of the gravity of the crimes, their impact was limited.

The Chamber noted that the crimes for which the three had been convicted "were committed upon a massive scale across several Districts of Sierra Leone" and that "the impact of all these crimes upon the Sierra Leonean society has been enormous."

"The Chamber concluded that the inherent gravity of the criminal acts for which Sesay, Kallon and Gbao have been convicted is exceptionally high," the Judges said.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.



Augustine Gbao stands to hear the judgment of the Court.

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